

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 8-10, and 12-13 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative at the May 17, 2005 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collings, U.S. Patent No. 5,828,402, in view of Figures 1-2 of the present application. Further, the Office Action rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collings in view of Figures 1-2 of the present application, and further in view of Ellis et al. (hereinafter "Ellis"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0020744A1 and rejected claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collings in view of Ellis. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 12 have been amended as discussed in the May 17 personal interview. As agreed, these amended claims define over the applied prior art. Dependent claims 2, 9-10, and 13 have been amended merely to correct informalities. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-11, and 13-14 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 12, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

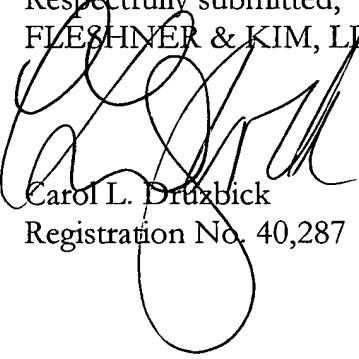
Serial No. 09/692,316

Docket No. P-0140

Reply to Office Action dated December 15, 2004

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbick**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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